

(c) GENERAL REFERENCES.—Any reference to a death gratuity payable under subchapter II of chapter 75 of title 10, United States Code, in any law, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States shall be deemed to be a reference to fallen hero compensation payable under such subchapter, as amended by this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 4386

(Purpose: To require a joint family support assistance program for families of members of the Armed Forces)

At the end of subtitle E of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 662. JOINT FAMILY SUPPORT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall carry out a joint family support assistance program for the purpose of providing assistance to families of members of the Armed Forces.

(b) LOCATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out the program for at least six regions of the country through sites established by the Secretary for purposes of the program in such regions.

(2) LOCATION OF CERTAIN SITES.—At least three of the sites established under paragraph (1) shall be located in an area that is geographically isolated from military installations.

(c) FUNCTIONS.—The Secretary shall provide assistance to families of the members of the Armed Forces under the program by providing at each site established for purposes of the program under subsection (b) the following:

(1) Financial, material, and other assistance to families of members of the Armed Forces.

(2) Mobile support services to families of members of the Armed Forces.

(3) Sponsorship of volunteers and family support professionals for the delivery of support services to families of members of the Armed Forces.

(4) Coordination of family assistance programs and activities provided by Military OneSource, Military Family Life Consultants, counselors, the Department of Defense, other departments and agencies of the Federal Government, State and local agencies, and non-profit entities.

(5) Facilitation of discussion on military family assistance programs, activities, and initiatives between and among the organizations, agencies, and entities referred to in paragraph (4).

(d) RESOURCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide personnel and other resources necessary for the implementation and operation of the program at each site established under subsection (b).

(2) ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN SERVICES.—In providing resources under paragraph (1), the Secretary may accept and utilize the services of non-Federal Government volunteers and non-profit entities.

(e) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall establish procedures for the operation of each site established under subsection (b) and for the provision of assistance to families of members of the Armed Forces at such site.

(f) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—

(1) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the first obligation of amounts for the program, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth a plan for the implementation of the program.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the actions taken to select and establish sites for the program under subsection (b).

(B) A description of the procedures established under subsection (d).

(C) A review of proposed actions to be taken under the program to improve coordination on family assistance program and activities between and among the Department of Defense, other departments and agencies of the Federal Government, State and local agencies, and non-profit entities.

(g) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the first obligation of amounts for the program, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the program.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report shall include the following:

(A) A description of the program, including each site established for purposes of the program, the procedures established under subsection (d) for operations at each such site, and the assistance provided through each such site for families of members of the Armed Forces.

(B) An assessment of the effectiveness of the program in providing assistance to families of members of the Armed Forces.

(C) An assessment of the advisability of extending the program or making it permanent.

(h) ASSISTANCE TO NON-PROFIT ENTITIES PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO MILITARY FAMILIES.—The Secretary may provide financial, material, and other assistance to non-profit entities in order to facilitate the provision by such entities of assistance to geographically isolated families of members of the Armed Forces.

(i) SUNSET.—The program required by this section, and the authority to provide assistance under subsection (h), shall cease upon the date that is three years after the first obligation of amounts for the program.

(j) FUNDING.—Of the amount authorized to be appropriated by section 301(5) for operation and maintenance for Defense-wide activities, \$5,000,000 may be available for the program required by this section and the provision of assistance under subsection (h).

AMENDMENT NO. 4511

(Purpose: To clarify the repeal of the requirement of reduction of Survivor Benefit Plan annuities by dependency and indemnity compensation)

On page 223, strike line 14 and all that follows through line 23, and insert the following:

(a) REPEAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of title 10, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(A) In section 1450, by striking subsection (c).

(B) In section 1451(c)—

(i) by striking paragraph (2); and

(ii) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such subchapter is further amended as follows:

(A) In section 1450—

(i) by striking subsection (e); and

(ii) by striking subsection (k).

(B) In section 1451(g)(1), by striking subparagraph (C).

(C) In section 1452—

(i) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “does not apply—” and all that follows and inserting “does not apply in the case of a deduction made through administrative error.”; and

(ii) by striking subsection (g).

(D) In section 1455(c), by striking “, 1450(k)(2).”

On page 224, line 15, strike “Code,” and insert “Code (as in effect on the day before the effective date provided under subsection (e)).”

On page 225, line 13, strike “1448(d)(2)(B)” and insert “1448(d)(2)(B)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4197

(Purpose: To modify the effect date of the termination of the phase-in of concurrent receipt of retired pay and veterans disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities rated as total by virtue of unemployability)

At the end of subtitle D of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 648. EFFECTIVE DATE OF TERMINATION OF PHASE-IN OF CONCURRENT RECEIPT FOR VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES RATED AS TOTAL BY VIRTUE OF UNEMPLOYABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1414(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “100 percent” the first place it appears and all that follows and inserting “100 percent and in the case of a qualified retiree receiving veterans’ disability compensation at the rate payable for a 100 percent disability by reason of a determination of individual unemployability, payment of retired pay to such veteran is subject to subsection (c) only during the period beginning on January 1, 2004, and ending on December 31, 2004.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on December 31, 2004.

AMENDMENT NO. 4512

(Purpose: To modify certain additional authorities for purposes of the targeted shaping of the Armed Forces)

On page 214, strike line 3 and insert the following:

(b) RELAXATION OF LIMITATION ON SELECTIVE EARLY RETIREMENT.—Section 638(a)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “However, during the period beginning on October 1, 2006, and ending on December 31, 2012, such number may be more than 30 percent of the number of officers considered in each competitive category, but may not be more than 30 percent of the number of officers considered in each grade.”

(c) ENHANCED AUTHORITY FOR SELECTIVE EARLY RETIREMENT AND EARLY DISCHARGES.—

(1) RENEWAL OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (a) of section 638a of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting “and during the period beginning on October 1, 2006, and ending on December 31, 2012,” after “December 31, 2001.”

(2) RELAXATION OF LIMITATION ON SELECTIVE EARLY RETIREMENT.—Subsection (c)(1) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “However, during the period beginning on October 1, 2006, and ending on December 31, 2012, such number may be more than 30 percent of the number of officers considered in each competitive category, but may not be more than 30 percent of the number of officers considered in each grade.”

(3) RELAXATION OF LIMITATION ON SELECTIVE EARLY DISCHARGE.—Subsection (d)(2) of such section is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, except that during the period beginning on October 1, 2006, and ending on December 31, 2012, such number may be more than 30 percent of the officers considered in each competitive category, but may not be more than 30 percent of the number of officers considered in each grade”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting before the period the following: “, except that during the period beginning on October 1, 2006, and ending on December 31, 2012, such number may be more than 30 percent of the officers considered in each competitive category, but may not be more than 30 percent